

Congressman Harry Teague Invited Nunley Testify on Progress of Wastewater Treatment Plant

Washington, DC – Thursday, Mayor L. Ray Nunley testified at a hearing of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee entitled “Recovery Act: Progress Report on Water Resources Infrastructure Investment”. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Harry Teague suggested that the committee invite Mayor Nunley to testify on the progress of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant that serves the village, the city of Ruidoso Downs and portions of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has provided about \$3 million in funding for the \$36 million plant.

Congressman Teague introduced the Mayor to the Committee prior to

his testimony, “I am proud to welcome my friend, my fellow New Mexico elected official, and my constituent, Mayor Ray Nunley of Ruidoso, to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to testify about the impact that wastewater infrastructure funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have had in my district. I ran for Congress not to be a voice at one of the political extremes, but to be a can-do worker, problem-solver and representative for the communities in my district. Well, as soon as I was elected, Mayor Nunley came to me with a problem that needed solving. His town, Ruidoso, had been ordered to complete a wastewater project that would cost \$36 million dollars...”

During the question and answer portion of Mayor Nunley’s testimony, Congressman Teague asked the Mayor about how many jobs this plant will develop over time. In response Mayor Nunley stated that there are currently 75 people working in new jobs, with between 125 and 150 projected once the project is in full swing.

Congressman Harry Teague also asked where they would have been had they not received the ARRA funds, Nunley responded that they could have perhaps borrowed the money from NMED, but that with the village’s bonding capacity tapped out, the loans from NMED would have

been outside Ruidoso’s price range. He said ARRA funds really “saved our bacon.”

[Click here to read Mayor Nunley's prepared testimony](#)

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